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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session

Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries in the General Assembly

Letter dated 12 August 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion in the agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly of a supplementary item entitled "Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries in the General Assembly".

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum (annex I) in support of the above request and a draft resolution (annex II) are attached herewith.

I would highly appreciate it if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative

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Annex I

Explanatory memorandum

I. Historical background

1. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries (TURKPA) was established in accordance with the Istanbul Agreement signed on 21 November 2008 by the Heads of the Parliaments of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Turkey.

2. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries was established as a result of a long-term cooperation started in 1992 when the First Summit of the Heads of Turkic-speaking States was held.

3. The rules of procedure, the regulations of the secretariat and the Baku Declaration were adopted on 29 September 2009 at the first plenary meeting of TURKPA held in Baku. The Astana Declaration was adopted at the second plenary meeting, held in Astana on 27 and 28 April 2011.

II. Principles and objectives

4. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries is an inter-parliamentary organization established to develop inter-parliamentary cooperation among its members (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkey), to further promote political dialogue between its members and to create a favourable political climate for the elaboration and implementation of various initiatives aimed at safeguarding regional and global security.

5. The Baku Declaration reaffirms the common will of TURKPA members to adhere to the principles of national independence, sovereign equality, territorial integrity, inviolability of State borders, non-interference in the internal affairs of each other and the inadmissibility of the threat or use of force, as well as to strengthen their political and economic security and develop their national economies.

III. Structure

6. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries consists of the parliamentary delegations of its members and holds its ordinary plenary sessions no less than once a year. The coordination of the activity of TURKPA is carried out by the Council of TURKPA, composed of the heads of the aforementioned parliamentary delegations or their authorized representatives.

7. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries has established the following commissions:

Commission on economic, trade and financial affairs
Commission on legal affairs
Commission on international relations
Commission on social, cultural and humanitarian affairs.

The commissions consider the issues within their competences, ensure the execution of the decisions adopted by the Council of TURKPA and its Chairperson, assess

documentation and examine proposals submitted to the commissions, adopt draft reports, recommendations and decisions as well as assign reporters.

8. The secretariat ensures the effective functioning of TURKPA, the Council and the commissions.

The Secretary General, head of the TURKPA secretariat, manages the overall activity of the secretariat.

9. The national parliaments that are not members of TURKPA and representatives of international parliamentary and other organizations may participate in the public meetings of TURKPA as observers and guests with the consent of the Council of TURKPA and by invitation of the Chairperson.

IV. Relations with other organizations

10. The Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries has already engaged in interaction with various international and regional organizations, including the United Nations, UNDP and UNICEF country offices at the secretariat location.

11. The TURKPA secretariat has established relations with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Parliament, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC).

12. The TURKPA Secretary General was admitted to the Association of Secretaries General of Parliaments. TURKPA was granted observer status by IPU and the Parliamentary Union of OIC. Negotiations on observer status are going on with the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of CIS and the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC. At the same time, TURKPA participates in the activities of the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE and the parliamentary dimension of the South-East European Cooperation Process. TURKPA also attends the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia.

13. Ongoing interaction between the Secretary General of TURKPA and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, officials of the Parliamentary Assembly of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Parliamentary Assembly of OSCE, the Parliamentary Assembly of BSEC, the Parliamentary Union of OIC, the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of CIS and the European Parliament contributes to the development of dialogue and cooperation and strengthens the role of parliamentary diplomacy in the world.

V. Observer status in the General Assembly

14. As an international parliamentary organization aimed at promoting political dialogue between its members, TURKPA fully adheres to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and considers inter-parliamentary cooperation as crucial for strengthening peace, democracy and economic development.

15. Granting observer status to TURKPA in the General Assembly of the United Nations would create an institutionalized cooperation, enhance the interaction between the two organizations and assist TURKPA in its efforts to encourage regional initiatives.

Annex II

Draft resolution

Observer status for the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries in the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Wishing to promote cooperation between the United Nations and the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries,

1. *Decides* to invite the Parliamentary Assembly of Turkic-speaking Countries to participate in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly in the capacity of observer;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the necessary action to implement the present resolution.